

U.S. - AFRICA ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING

Tucson, Arizona

December 15, 1999

TUCSON COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, the Energy Ministers from Africa met at the first U.S.-Africa Energy Ministers Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, U.S., on December 13-15, 1999. The Ministers responsible for energy or their representatives and the Secretary of Energy of the United States, hereby referred to as the Energy Ministers, from 48 countries attended. The Ministers met to carry forward a cooperative partnership initiated in March 1999 at the U.S.-Africa Ministerial, in Washington, DC, under the "Blueprint for U.S.-Africa Partnership" and to strengthen energy cooperation among and between the U.S. and the countries of Africa. In this meeting, the Ministers focused on policies and practices that promote economic development, address environmental concerns, encourage private investment, enhance regional integration, and increase access to energy for Africa's people. Such successful policies and practices will lead to the creation of sustainable energy infrastructure for Africa in the 21st century and will advance Africa's economic and social development.

The Ministers recognized the progress that has been achieved, individually and collectively through bilateral, regional, multilateral and international efforts, towards developing Africa's energy sector in a way that meets their mutual political, economic, social, and environmental goals. They also acknowledged the energy cooperation activities conducted under the framework of various regional economic and political organizations. They discussed the unique energy needs of Africa, including its serious energy shortages, limited access to exploitation and consumption of energy, and heavy dependence on traditional energy sources, taking into account its diversity and enormous potential.

The Ministers acknowledged the need to take concrete steps to establish policies and programs that foster sustainable energy development and increased access to affordable energy.

The Ministers accepted the invitation of the Government of Morocco to host a conference on sustainable energy technology next year. The Ministers accepted the invitation of the Government of South Africa to host a Ministers meeting next year and the invitation of the Government of Algeria to host a preparatory experts meeting next year and assess their progress in this regard.

The Ministers endorsed a Joint Statement on Sustainable Energy Development and Cooperation in Support of the Environment, confirming their agreement to implement sustainable energy policies and promote clean energy options.

The Ministers, aware that private investment and partnership are crucial to meeting Africa's growing energy needs in the 21st century, issued a Joint Statement on Investment Principles for the Energy Sector, demonstrating their agreement to create or sustain the conditions that encourage investment in the energy sector.

The Ministers expressed their gratitude to U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the people of the City of Tucson for their warm hospitality and effective planning and organization.